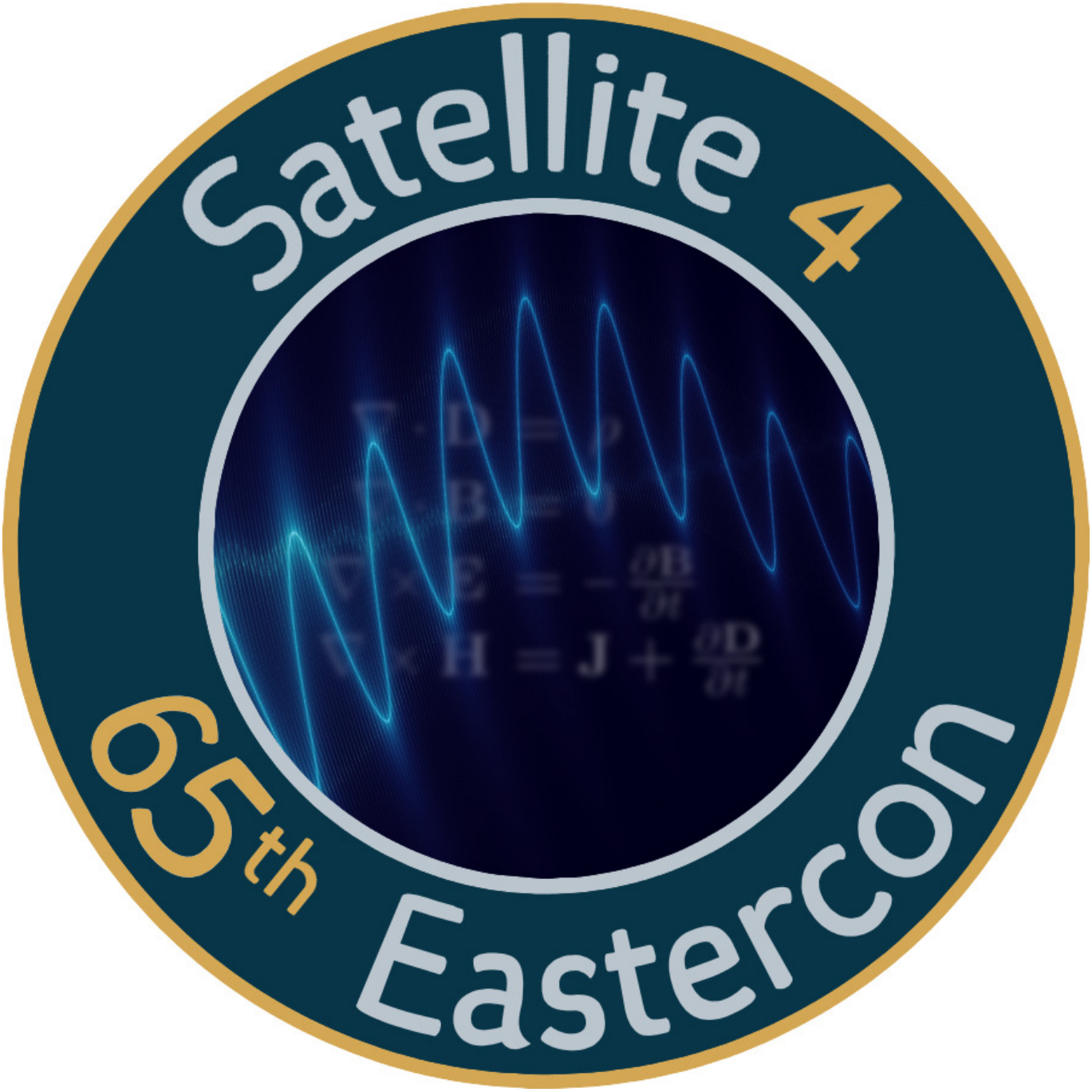

Propagation

The third Progress Report for the
65th British National Science Fiction Convention
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow
18th – 21st April 2014

About Us

Satellite 4 is the 65th Eastercon, to be held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow, from the 18th – 21st April 2014.

The Guests of Honour

John Meaney	Author
Juliet E McKenna	Author
Jim Burns	Artist
Alice and Steve Lawson	Fans
Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell	Scientist

The Special Guest

Sir Terry Pratchett	Author (limited appearance, subject to health)

The Oort Crowd (Committee)

Satellite 4 is being organised by some of the people who ran previous Satellite conventions, augmented by well-established conrunners:

Chair	Michael Davidson, Bringer of Peace
Vice-chair	Fran Dowd (The Sofa), Bringer of Wisdom
Programme/Guest Liaison	Christine Davidson, Bringer of Jollity
Publicity/Publications	Mad Elf, the Winged Messenger
Hotel Liaison	Mark Meenan, Bringer of Dreams
Treasurer/Membership	Carolyn Sleith (Dyllanne), Bringer of Wealth

The Contact Details

You can contact us by email at: **enquiries@satellite4.org.uk**
or by writing to:

Satellite 4,
c/o Flat 2/1,
691 Shields Road,
Pollokshields,
Glasgow
G41 4QL

For up-to-date news, see our website: **www.satellite4.org.uk**
or follow us on Facebook: **Satellite Conventions**
and Twitter: **@SatelliteCons**

From the Chair

When you think about it, Eastercons are strange beasts. Take an eclectic bunch of people, throw them into a hotel together, stand back and wait to see what happens next. We will provide a programme that will excite, delight, provoke and stimulate – it will be fascinating to see what comes out of the mix. Eastercons are, as they always have been, created by the fans. And long may it continue…

Which, of course, is a bit of a moot point. With a bid for 2015 just appearing and even less noise about 2016, where are future Eastercons coming from? Indeed, as we started to discuss at EightSquared, what incentive is there to give up a lot of your own time, put yourself up for a load of grief and take on a huge financial risk?

To answer this and encourage the next generation of conrunners, we will hold a series of workshops full of help and advice for fans who want to get involved but are not very sure where to start. (There is more detail about these later in the PR.) We hope people come away enthused and inspired to take up the challenges for the future.

As for Satellite 4, it is shaping up to be a stellar Eastercon. Our programme will be a heady mixture, with a strong emphasis on the interactions between space fact and science fiction and fantasy, all supported by our glittering Guests of Honour.

So, we have set the scene, it is down to you, the fans, to come along and bring the whole thing to life. Get involved – volunteer for programme, suggest new ideas, become a gopher, talk to people, ask questions at panels... it is your Eastercon so help make it work. I shall see you all in Glasgow soon.

Michael

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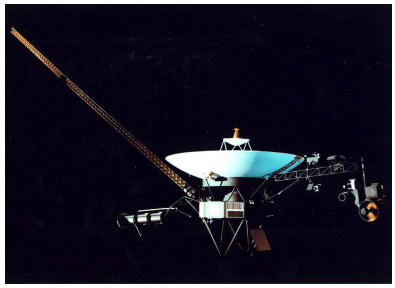
Cover art by Mad Elf. Incidental art by Neil McChrystal. Material by Michael Davidson, Christine Davidson, Mad Elf, Mark Meenan. All data accurate as of 04/11/2013

Voyager – the Skinny

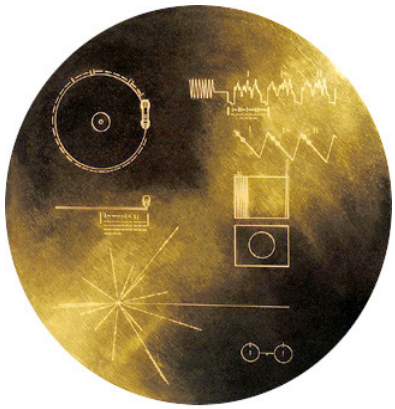
Now that Voyager 1 has 'officially' left the Solar System (what do NASA know – we think it will really leave the Solar System on 18th April 2014, during the Satellite 4 Opening Ceremony), we now give you the low-down on our far-flung bit of humanity.



Voyager 1 was launched on September 5th 1977, 16 days AFTER Voyager 2. *(How can NASA put satellites outside the solar system, but cannot count to 2 in the right order?)*

The Voyagers weigh-in at 773 kilograms each *(or about 8 Satellite 4 chairs – more if I can ever stick to the diet!)*

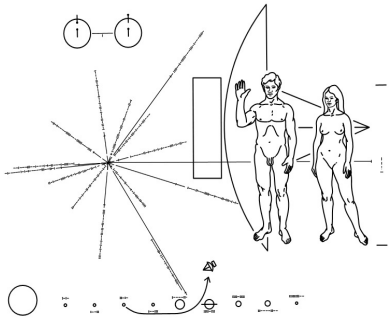
Electrical power is supplied by three radioisotope thermoelectric generators, powered by plutonium-238. With a half-life of 87.74 years, the generators are already down to 75.1% of their original power.



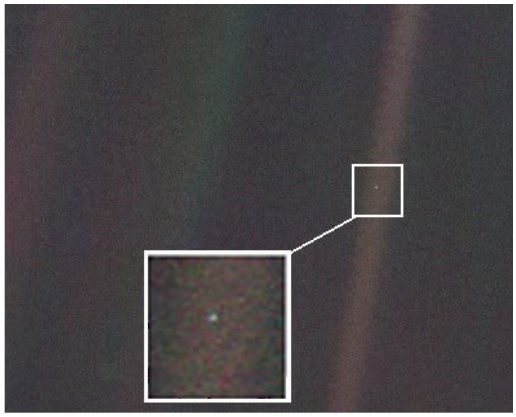
Each Voyager carries a 'Golden Record', with music and pictures to entertain any aliens who find it *(and can understand the instructions on 'how to play this disc')*.

It contains greetings in 55 languages from Akkadin to Wu, including English and Welsh *(but not Gaelic)*.

The music includes Bach, Barcelata, Beethoven, Chuck Berry and Blind Willie Johnson. *(They were going to wait for Voyager 3 for composers whose names do NOT begin with 'B'.)*



It also contains a brain wave recording of Ann Druyan, who selected the music (and later married Carl Sagan). *(Apparently she did not select any filk!)*



Unlike the Pioneer plaques, NASA decided NOT to include a picture of a naked Sir Cliff Richard. *(Presumably because we DO want the aliens to make contact.)*

The most famous picture taken by Voyager is *Pale Blue Dot* – a portrait of our home planet.

DYSPROSIUM 2015

The 66th British National Science Fiction Convention Bid
Eastercon

3-6 April 2015
The Park Inn, London Heathrow, UK

Pre-Supporting Membership £15 available now

Web: www.dysprosium.org.uk
Email: enquiries@dysprosium.org.uk

www.facebook.com/DysprosiumCon
DysprosiumCon

Hotel Update

The Convention will take place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Congress Road, Glasgow G3 8QT. The hotel is situated about two miles from Glasgow City Centre and beside the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre.

Overflow accommodation is available at the Campanile and the Hilton Garden Inn – both across the car park from the Crowne Plaza – and the Marriott, which is just over a mile from the Crowne Plaza.

At time of writing rooms in the Crowne Plaza & Campanile are nearly sold out. However we still have ample rooms available at the Marriott and Hilton Garden Inn.

Booking

There is an online bedroom booking service managed by Glasgow City Marketing Bureau, a link to the booking site and more information about our hotels are available from our website's ***The Convention Hotel*** section.

You will need a debit or credit card to book but there is no charge taken at this time.

You may also wish to know the Cancellation Policy for rooms booked using this service:

> Individual Bookings up to 2 Rooms: Cancellations can be made up to 48 hours prior to arrival without penalty. Cancellations of all or any room nights after the 48 hour deadline will incur 100% charges.

This currently covers all your room bookings but if you have, or wish to, book more than two rooms please see the full booking cancellation policy, which is available on our website.

Hotel Booking Code Reminder

You can get a reminder for the hotel booking code by entering your convention email address in the ***Booking Code Reminder*** form in the website's ***The Convention Hotel*** section.

Getting There

Trains: Glasgow has two major railway stations in the city centre, Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow Queen Street Station. The Crowne Plaza is less than 2 miles from either of these and a taxi should cost about £5.

The nearest railway station to the convention hotel is Exhibition Centre. This

lies on the Argyle Line from Glasgow Central Low-Level Station. On exiting the station, turn sharp right and take the covered walkway towards the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC). The hotel is straight ahead.

Planes: The hotel is 8 miles from Glasgow International Airport. A taxi from the airport will cost about £20. There is also a bus service which will take you into the City Centre – an open return on the bus costs £5.

and Automobiles: The hotel is adjacent to the SECC, the Clyde Auditorium (known locally as the 'Armadillo') and the famous 'Squinty Bridge' (aka the Glasgow Arc). The M8 motorway runs close to the venue and the SECC exit is Junction 19. Just follow the brown tourist signs bearing the name of the hotel.

Parking

The Crowne Plaza has a car park which is available to all convention members at a discounted rate of £1 per hour (up to £9 per day). The prices at each hotel for their residents are:

	Crowne Plaza	**Marriot**	**Hilton Garden Inn**	**Campanile**
per Hour	£1.00	£1.00	n/a	Free
per Day	£6.00	£8.00	£5.00	Free

Announcements & Things to Remember

There Will Be A Satellite 4 Creche

We are pleased to announce that, thanks to generous passalong, the creche will be free of charge for infants (>3 months old) and children (<11 years old) who are members of the convention.

Creche services will be provided by Indigo childcare:

www.indigochildcaregroup.com

We will be sending registration forms to all eligible people a few months before the convention. Prior registration guarantees a place, which will otherwise be limited. Limited walk-in places may be available depending on demand.

Converting from Supporting & Editing your Membership

Don't forget you can change your membership details and convert from Supporting by visiting the ***My Membership*** page on our website's ***Join***

Satellite 4 section. It'll email you a special link that gives you access to your membership form.

'Early Bird' Sign-Up Tokens

Like previous Eastercons, Satellite 4 will feature some limited-availability events, for example kaffeklatches, tastings, and workshops. We want to give as many members as possible a chance of attending one of these. To facilitate this each member will receive in their pack one 'Early Bird' Friday Sign Up token. Surrender this to Ops on Friday and they will allow you to put your name down for *one* limited-availability item (subject to there being space). From Saturday morning onwards you are welcome to sign up for as many of these types of item if there are spaces available. Note that tokens are not transferable between members.

Stamps for Albatrosses

Christmas is coming soon, so don't forget to save up your stamps for our Albatross Appeal! The RSPB needs as many stamps as you can collect to help save these magnificent birds from being accidentally caught by long-line fishing boats. See our website for more details.

Convention T-Shirts

Con t-shirts are available via a form on our website's ***Join Satellite 4*** section, or by asking in person, at £16 for sizes Small to XXXL (suitable for almost all fen), and £12 for Tiny (suitable for babies and soft toys). They can be collected in person, or posted anywhere in the UK for an additional £4 per t-shirt.

T-shirts are a single-sided print on black, with the main convention logo and details on the front, and a sleeve patch featuring our Mission Logo, the comet and stars.

Having Difficulties?

If you have difficulty accessing any of the forms, please email us at:

enquiries@satellite4.org.uk

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The Programme

Satellite 4 aims to deliver all the major items and events fandom expects of an Eastercon, but with the same emphasis on 'Science Fiction, Science Fact, Science Fun' as previous Satellite conventions. The programme is still developing, but a taste of what we have lined up so far is given below. There are still vacant programme slots. So please volunteer, or put forward programme ideas, via the website – see the relevant section at ***Contact Us: Sign Up & Request Forms***.

Beginnings and endings (to help those yet to finalise their travel plans)

The convention will begin on Friday afternoon with the Opening Ceremony, incorporating a welcome from the Lord Provost of Glasgow, followed by a Civic Reception hosted by the City and the official opening and first viewing of the Art Show. On Monday we plan to run programme until late afternoon, with Satellite convention's traditional *Dead Laika** *Party* in the evening.

Day Guests

In addition to our fabulous Guests of Honour, Special Guest and Guests Emeritus, we've invited some interesting local speakers to Satellite 4. Jean Anderson and Marc Alexander will talk on their *Historical Thesaurus of English* project; Roddy Hamilton explores the interface between SF and religion; Glasgow-based satellite manufacturers Clyde Space will be coming along to give us an insight into their work; and science communicator Jon Davies (who some will remember from Satellite 3) returns with his popular science lecture, this time with an SF twist!

Special Guest Sir Terry Pratchett

As expected, Sir Terry won't be able to join us for the whole weekend. However, we are pleased to say that he plans to be with us for the full day on Sunday, along with his PA, Rob Wilkins, and agent Colin Smythe. We very much look forward to seeing them at the convention, and hearing about Sir Terry's recent projects.

Talks

Satellite 4 will feature the BSFA and Hay lectures, plus talks on diverse topics from fan speakers. Returning from previous Satellite conventions are Robert

* Dog!

Law talking on the Voyager missions; Colin McInnes on geoengineering; and Phil Wellings with an update on inadvisable rocket science. And what event would be complete without a contribution from the inestimable Mr ED Buckley! We're also pleased to have a talk on the trans-Atlantic cable from long-standing fan Bill Burns; Serena Culfeather and John Wilson will provide an insight into the joys of *The Bee Factory*, and Nik Whitehead explains the challenges of *Timekeeping on Mars*.

Panels

These will include serious discussions on different aspects of the genre, debate over topics concerning the status and future of fandom, and of course fun items. Planned so far are panels on the work of our sadly missed Guest Emeritus (the late) Iain M Banks; a look at various types of publishing and their associated challenges; and a topical discussion on the future of Eastercon if Scotland were to gain independence following the September 2014 Referendum. We also aim to delve into alternative history, take a look at 'Proto-SF' and try to convince the audience of which was the most successful space mission ever.

The Way We Were

Satellite 4 is the 65th British National Science Fiction Convention and, to mark the event reaching pensionable age, we'd like to invite you to bring along photos from past Eastercons to share with the membership. A scanner will be available in Ops, so you don't have to risk exhibiting your precious originals, and there will be a space to display your scanned photos, plus pens for you to add information about where and when the photo was taken. Both serious and amusing photos are welcome, although the committee reserves the right to remove anything offensive or unacceptable.

Workshops

A variety of workshops will take place over the weekend. In addition to a writers' workshop lead by GoH Juliet McKenna, there will be chances to try your hand at arts and crafts, and physical activities, including a walk (or run, for the more energetic!) round some of the ~~pubs~~ sites of Glasgow in collaboration with Glasgow Hash House Harriers (please bring suitable clothes and, especially, footwear, if you plan to participate). Or why not come along and help Loncon 3 get stuffed (creating an enormous flock of soft toy pigeons of course)! We'll also be featuring prominently a series of workshops on Conrunning, led by Mark Meenan and the rest of the Satellite 4 committee.

Mark writes: "Are you interested in knowing more about how conventions are run? Would you like to run your own convention, but don't know where to start? At last year's Eastercon, Eight Squared, we promised to host a workshop for people new to running convention. The workshop will cover basics like finding a venue, budgeting, care and feeding of a GOH. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of people with experience of running different conventions, from small local cons up to Worldcons."

Other programme items

Where other conventions have beer or whisky tastings, Morag and Catriona offer you the opportunity to sample scones, whilst Ming brings the delights(?) of military field rations from around the world. There will be lots of games and quizzes to join in – compete for supremacy in Tig's Tribble Pursuit, test your knowledge in Mad Elf and Danae's anime quiz, or attempt to survive the machinations of Munchkin. A formal debate is traditional at Satellite conventions and this time we plan to focus on an eco-theme, discussing whether we humans should put our own house in order before moving off-world. We're also in negotiation over author readings, book launches, and so much more that it's hard to imagine where we're going to find time and space to put it all!

Evening Extravaganzas!

Satellite 4 aims to offer some outstanding evening programming that everyone will enjoy. On Friday we have a play by Ian Sorensen marking the 50th Anniversary of Dr Who, entitled *Dr Whorrible's Singalong Blog*, then it's time to break out your kilts and get onto the dance floor for a proper Scottish ceilidh with *The Reel Fling*. Saturday evening sees the announcement of the *Hugo Award Nominations* and two very contrasting musical items. We have a set from Jordan Reyne, renowned for her pioneering combination of celtic, steampunk, industrial and folk sounds, and The Ambassadors Ball, with live music from fabulous local big band, *That Swing Sensation.* We hope as many members as possible will attend the Ball dressed as dignitaries from planets and cultures, real or imaginary, across time and space – but everyone is welcome, whether in costume or not. The BSFA Award Ceremony takes place on Sunday evening, followed by a live performance from the legendary *Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre* and then the convention disco. The theme of the disco, marking the 40th anniversary of cult SF/horror movie Young Frankenstein, is *The Modern Prometheus*.

Al's Apps

Al the Albatross planned to scour the city of Glasgow to find out lots and lots of information about Glasgow, its culture and attractions, restaurants and bars, and transport around the city. But when he realised just how long the article he was going to put together would be, he changed his mind. So instead, Al presents a short list of useful phone apps for Ambassadors and Con-Goers from near and far.

Welcome to Scotland

Provides a free in-depth travel guide to Scotland, including accommodation, restaurants, things to do and events.

iOS Android

Glasgow, Scotland with Style

Information on events, restaurants, attractions and travel; also provides maps of the city

iOS Android

Glasgow Bus Finder

The "essential app for using buses in Glasgow" includes an interactive map of bus stops and routes and allows the user to set alerts and receive notifications about specific departures.

iOS Android

iShoogle

Glasgow Subway app, featuring live service updates, timetables, trivia, maps and a city guide to Glasgow.

iOS Android

Scotrail

Live real time train running information and sells tickets for trains in Glasgow, as well as the rest of the UK.

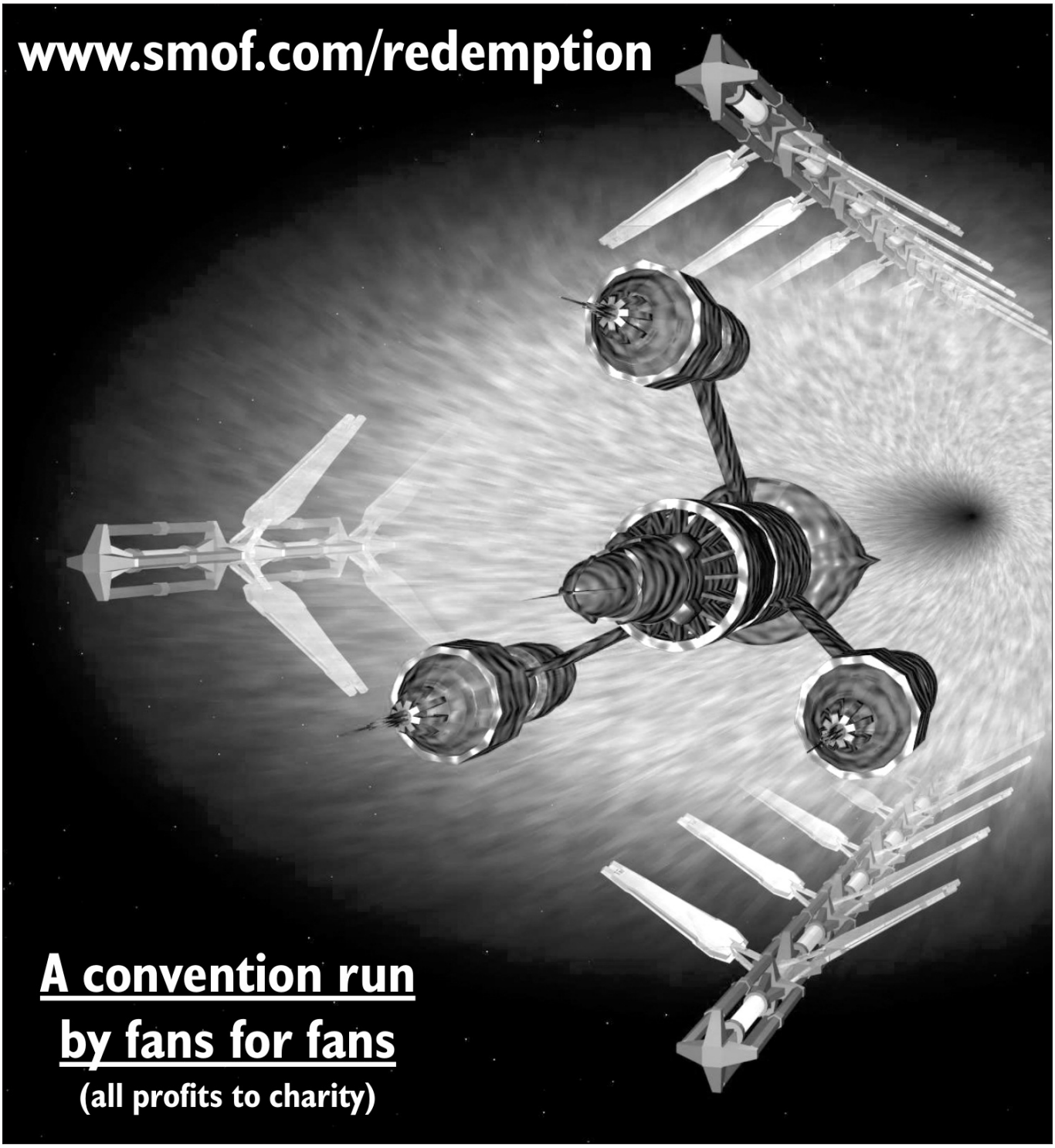
iOS Android

REDEMPTION '15

20 – 22 February 2015

Britannia Hotel, Coventry, UK

Multimedia Science Fiction Convention



New Members since PR2

This is a list of all members who have joined since PR2 was compiled, on 10/03/2013. For a full list of members please see our website.

522 A Aitken, John
581 A Alexander, Marc
564 A Alina, Congreve
580 A Anderson, Jean
399 A Anderson, Kevin
551 A Angus, Tiffani
469 A Austin
441 A Barbini, Francesca (Francesca-Rinoa-Barbini)
521 A Bartholomew, Susan
553 A Batik, Lynne
512 A Beantighe Ceramics
513 A Beantighe Ceramics
515 A BFG
539 A Bigwood, Andrew
526 A Black, Crispin
527 A Black, Jessica
430 A Bond, Neil K
404 A Brown, TANYA
591 A BSFA, Lecturer
572 J Bullen, Jamie
571 A Bullen, Paul
389 A Callan, Simon
451 A Carabine, Elizabeth
472 A Caro
547 A Cathie Taylor
397 A Ceccarelli, Gianni (dakkar)
556 A Chick, Frank Jason
437 A Clive
461 A Coates, Elaine
463 J Coates, Ethan
462 J Coates, Joel
453 A Cockburn, Paul F
474 A Colin
538 A Couzens, Gary
524 A Coxon, John
457 J Crook, Abi (Abi)
456 J Crook, Alistair (Alistair)
455 A Crook, Deborah (Deborah)
458 J Crook, Rachel (Rachel)
574 A CROWTHER, NICHOLA
573 A CROWTHER, PETER
424 A David U.
542 A Davies, Abigail
585 A Davies, Jon
586 A Davies, Lennox
467 C Dawson, Alan
465 A Dawson, Guy
466 A Dawson, Sue
502 A Dickinson, Anna
443 A Dickson, Gillian (Gillian)
442 A Dickson, Kethry (Kethry-Ashira)
485 A Doktor Osiris
410 A Elin
544 A elkin, greg (beermat)
422 A Ellis, Dave
423 A England, Andy
421 A English, Phil
563 A Fab
514 A Feline
559 A Feorag NicBhride
476 A Feral Strumpet
477 A Feral Strumpet
486 A Feruglio Dal Dan, Anna (Anna FDD)
561 A Fifitrix
407 A Francis Knight
568 A Franklin, Daniel
420 A Genki Gear
464 A Gray, Roy
408 A Gullen, David
582 A Hamilton, Roddy
402 A Harriet / Kalypso
509 A Harris, Robbie
558 A Harvey, Eve
557 A Harvey, John
590 A Hay, Lecturer
432 A Heathcock, Julian (Julian)
566 A Hedenlund, Alice
565 A Hedenlund, Anders
445 A Hoare, Martin
447 A Hooton, Caroline
415 A Howard, Singerman
411 A HUNTER, IAN
412 A Hutchinson, Eleanor
525 A Ings, Simon
504 A Jack Deighton
516 A Jackson, Nicholas
454 A James, Edward
439 A James, Rhodri
435 A James, Wilfred (Wilf James)
390 A Jarrold, John
460 A Kat W

483 A Kathy Boulton
427 A Keen, Kate
428 A Keen, Tony
495 A Kennaway, Richard
535 A Klimczak, Dominika
500 A Larter, Nick
490 A Leighton, Andy
528 A Lyle, Anne
438 A Mabey, Peter
494 A MacGregor, Duncan
450 A Macia, Cristina
489 A Malme, Chris (Chris)
533 A McChrystal, Neil
417 A McGrath, Martin
560 A McGuinness, Des
567 A McInnes, Colin
392 A McMurray, Julie
391 A McMurray, Pat
523 A Meats, Jessica
487 A Moran, John
488 A Moran, Sara
405 A O'Reilly, Ruth
507 A Octon, Roger (...Nightime ...daytime!)
482 A Palmer, Laura
446 N Panda, Doris
491 A Paolini, Paul
576 A Peek, Bernard
577 A Peek, Mary
398 A Persson, Tommy
520 A Pietilä, Raija
505 A Pitman, Marion
470 A Pol
550 A Powell, Gareth L
434 A Quantum Mechanic
440 A R. "Daneel" Malan
401 A R.J. Booth (Ruth)
511 A Rajendra, Eeson
416 A Raoul Duke
510 A Rebecca J Payne
543 A Reyne, Jordan
493 A Richards, JFW (John Richards)
492 A Richards, MJS (Maerryn Richards)
578 A Sales, Ian
583 A Sampson, Robin
429 A Scott, Donna (Donna Scot)
409 A Sebold, Gaie
532 A Shearman, Moira
433 A Shemilt, Sarah
552 A Sim, Allan J.
496 A Sinclair, Mark
498 C Sinclair, Rosie
497 A Sinclair, Sally
540 A Sketchley, Martin
418 A Slater, Mandy
468 A Slater, Mark
575 A SMITH, MICHAEL
414 A Smyth, Ann
579 A Smythe, Colin
406 A Snell, Ian
588 N Sock, Left
589 N Sock, Right
541 A Solomon, Kate
584 A Space 2, Clyde
459 A Steve K
471 A Stormcrow
484 A Sue Boulton
587 A Sutherland, Kev F.
452 A Taft, Ian (mahlerIan)
548 A Taylor, Martin
546 A Taylor, Melissa
426 A Thaning, Sten
545 A Thomson, Gemma (raygungoth)
562 A Tracy Ann
506 A Turnbull, Heather (The Fossil)
403 A Unerman, Sandra
448 A Valerie
425 A Van Wassel, Kirsti
570 J Vasco, Laura
431 A Walker, Nick (Nick)
395 A Walters, Huw
394 A Walters, Sarah
449 A Watson, Ian
444 A Whates, Ian
413 A Williamson, Neil
393 A Womack, Tom
473 A Worthen, Shana
534 A Zantic

Key

A	Adult Attending	J	Junior
C	Child	L	Guest Emeritus
G	Guest	N	Apocrypha
I	Infant	S	Supporting

This list is accurate as of 04/11/2013. If you chose not to have your name appear on the website, it will not appear here, as we will publish this PR online.

14–18 August 2014
www.loncon3.org

ExCeL, London
info@loncon3.org

LONCON 3

The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention

Iain M
BANKS†

John
CLUTE

Malcolm
EDWARDS

Chris
FOSS

Jeanne
GOMOLL

Robin
HOBB

Bryan
TALBOT

Age: 26+: £115 16–25: £65 6–15: £30 0–5: £2
Family: £260 Supporting: £25

Discounts available for friends of the 'London in 2014' bid

Rates valid until 28 February 2014. A family is 2 adults and 2+ children. †In memoriam.
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